

NAME: Imagawa, Katsuyo DATE OF BIRTH: 1892 PLACE OF BIRTH: Okayama-ken
Age: 82 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: Sewing school

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1913 Age: 21 M.S. P.B. Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Ranch foreman (husband) 2. Hotel business 3. Florist
Place of residence: 1. Sacramento 2. Isleton 3. Sacramento
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: _____
Name of relocation center: Tule Lake, Jerome, Amache
Dispensation of property: Locked up in a house. Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. Feeding babies 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: Minnesotá

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: _____
Address/es: 1. Long Beach 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: Husband died

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 11/21/74 Place: Long Beach

Translator: Mahel Hall

T: Please tell me your full name.

I: My name is Katsuyo Imakawa.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Okayama Prefecture.

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born in 1892. I am 82 years old now.

Q: What kind of a man was your father?

A: He was a strict father, but mother was a gentle woman.

Q: What do you remember about your father?

A: I remember that he was a strict man, so we could not be untidy.

I think that was good.

Q: Have you been scolded severely?

A: Not too severely, but he used to advise us not to do this or that at the dinner table.

Q: Was your mother a gentle person?

A: Yes, she was. It was better for mother to be gentle as father was strict.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I had 8 brothers and sisters.

Q: Where were you among your brothers and sisters?

A: I was the first one. I was the oldest, so I was well taken care of.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He was a farmer.

Q: Did he have much land?

A: Yes, he did. It was a small village, so he did not have much land, just enough for the family. I have never helped farming.

Q: How many brothers did you have?

A: There were 4 boys and 4 girls.

Q: How much education did you have?

A: I quit junior high in the last part and went to a sewing school. I attended it until I came to America. I wanted to be a sewing teacher, so my teacher taught me very carefully. However, I came to America, so that plan was spoiled.

Q: Do you remember about your school teachers?

A: I remember that the principal of the grammar school was teaching Japanese language at the sewing school. He remembered my name. When I was in grammar school I thought he was a strict teacher, but at the sewing school he was very kind to me. A teacher of the sewing school was especially good to me.

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Q: What do you mean by "good to " you? Did she teach you kindly?

A: She taught me carefully. She took me around and borrowed new handicraft articles from girls' highschools in Okayama. I helped her make them. When I visited her home recently I found out that she had already passed away. I regret that I did not visit her grave.

Q: What kind of thing did you play when you were a child?

A: ^{We lived} ~~It was~~ in the country, so we made up games and played.

Q: What kind of games did you play?

A: We played on the hill. We did naughty things, too.

Q: What kind of naughty things did you do?

A: We picked persimmons ^{from neighbor's trees} before they were ripe, and were scolded.

I lived in the country so we used to play in the stream. But if I was found playing in the stream, I was scolded when I went home.

Q: Were you not supposed to be in the stream?

A: I was told that a girl should not be doing such thing.

Q: How old were you then?

A: About 12 or 13.

Q: You were a tomboy, weren't you?

A: Yes, I was. I was told not to get in the stream, but I did.

Some places the water came to my neck. I saved the life of my friend's brother who was in trouble in deep water, I still remember that.

Q: Were you around 12 or 13 then?

A: Yes, I was. I went to learn sewing without helping my parents.

T: It was good that your parents sent you to learn sewing.

I: Yes, because I was the oldest. Later I thought it didn't do me any good as I came to America.

Q: What was the religion of your family?

A: It was the Nichiren Sect.

Q: What was your maiden name?

A: It was Niko.

Q: Did your parents teach you about the Nichiren Sect?

A: No, not much. I believed it without knowing anything about it.

My parents were very devout believers. There was a pious association in the village which met about once a month, and my father was the leader of it. I think his faith was very simple, so was my mother's.

Q: What kind of village was the village you grew up in?

Was it big?

A: It was a small village.

Q: Did you learn about Ninomiya Sontoku?

A: I learned about him when I was little.

Q: Do you remember about any war, such as the Sino-Japanese War?

A: I don't remeber. My uncle went to the war.

Q: What war was that? Was that the Sino-Japanese War?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: What do you remember about your uncle going to war?

A: I remember the time my uncle came home from the war. He was still young. He told us stories about the war.

Q: What kind of story do you remember?

A: I don't remember any as I was little. I just remember him coming home from the war. My uncle did not like his wife so they were living separately. They had two children, and my grandmother took care of them. My younger brother and I used to go to our grandmother's and stayed there overnight. My mother took good care of the children.

Q: Did the children stay with your uncle?

A: No, they stayed with my grandmother, and my parents were looking after my grandmother.

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Q: Did they live together?

A: No, they lived separately. They lived a little away from each other. My uncle was selfish.

Q: Did the uncle and aunt come to visit their children?

A: As they were divorced, they were not welcomed.

Q: What made you decide to come to America?

A: There was an offer of marriage, so I decided to come to America.

My mother was worried about me, and took me to a fortune teller, who told me that there is no such thing as making easy money, so I had better not go. My mother did not encourage me. As I was determined to go she did not stop me, and let me come here.

Another reason for getting an approval was that Imagawa's sister was married to a relative of my grandmother who came from Bitchu. As they did not have to investigate his family lineage, they thought it would be all right for me to marry him. That is how I came here. I had never met Imagawa before then.

Q: Did you see his photograph?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What was your impression of him when you saw his photograph?

A: I did not have any opinion about him.

Q: How old were you then?

A: I think I was 20 years old.

Q: How old was Mr. Imagawa then?

A: He was 7 years older than I, so he was 27.

Q: Did you think America was a nice place?

A: I didn't think it was especially nice place, and didn't know how advanced it was.

Q: Weren't you too enthusiastic about coming to America?

A: No, not much. Until my child was about 7 years old I wanted to go back to Japan. Then I thought it wouldn't be good for the children if I felt that way, so I made up my mind to settle down here. I had a dream of bringing up my children not just as Japanese or Americans but as cosmopolitans.

Q: What year were you married?

A: In 1912.

Q: How was it on board the ship?

A: I was seasick. In those days we had to go and get the meals. I was given tickets to go and get the food, but I did not go. As I was seasick I did not eat. I was seasick until we arrived in Hawaii. I thought I would never take a ship back any more as I felt so bad.

Q: What kind of people were on board the ship?

A: They were like us.

Q: Were you worried what kind of a man Mr. Imagawa was until you met him?

A: I wasn't worried much.

Q: Was it because he was your far relation?

A: I didn't know him, but my grandmother knew him. That is why I felt quite safe. Otherwise my parents would have been worried, and we couldn't have got married.

Q: Where did you go from Hawaii?

A: We didn't go to Hawaii. We came straight to America.

Q: Where did you ~~land~~ arrive?

A: San Francisco and then to Angel Island.

Q: How long did you stay on Angel Island?

A: I think we stayed there 2 to 3 days.

Q: Do you remember about Angel Island?

A: I remember a little.

Q: What do you remember? Were you given a physical examination?

A: I wasn't given any. I had some eye trouble in Japan, so I stayed in Kobe for about a month and had it treated.

Q: Did Mr. Imagawa come to Angel Island to pick you up?

A: No. When the ship arrived, people came to meet us. I saw him from the deck of the ship.

Q: Did you recognize him at once?

A: Yes, I did as he looked a lot like his older brother.

Q: Were you glad to see him?

A: I was not glad nor disappointed.

Q: Did you think, "So this is my husband"?

A: Yes, something like that.

Q: Where did you go from there?

A: We landed at San Francisco, and then went to Sacramento.

Q: Did you go to Sacramento right away?

A: I think we stayed in San Francisco for two to 3 days as we bought some clothes.

Q: Was Mr. Imagawa in Sacramento?

A: Yes, he was. He was in North Sacramento. In those days that area was not developed yet. He was on a ranch which raised ~~hogs~~ cows.

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Q: Was he working there?

A: He was working as a foreman. I think Mr. Aoki was his partner.
I forgot his name, but there was a man who was an interpreter.

Q: So you came to North Sacramento?

A: He was working as a foreman, so we went there. I was very lonely there. On our way home from Sacramento he must have thought that he should have got me prepared, so he told me that the place we were going was like that house over there. It was like a chicken coop. When we arrived there I found out that our house was like that. As soon as we got there I had to make a bed.

Q: What kind of a bed was it?

A: It was not a regular bed. It was like a hand made bed with hay on it. I didn't think America was like that, but I was not surprised. There were no Japanese houses around. It rained all the time. as I went there in September. I saw tramps walking by our house as it was by the roadside, and sometimes they came in. I was very scared.

Q: Were they Japanese?

A: No, they were the white traps. I didn't understand them, and they were dressed funny, so I thought they were disgusting. In those days the tramps used to walk around. Iw was about 5 miles north of Sacramento.

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Q: What was the worst trouble you had?

A: There were horses near by the house, and I had to go by them to go to the toilet. As I was scared of horses, I ran there when the horses were away.

Q: Did you work?

A: I did not work outside, but I cooked.

Q: Did you cook only for your husband?

A: I cooked for one or two helpers, too. After the crops were picked I went to Isleton and worked in an asparagus ranch.

Q: How was it there?

A: Children were all born there.

Q: How many children?

A: Five.

Q: You lived in Isleton for many years, didn't you?

A: Ten years.

Q: Do you have altogether five children?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: How was the life in Isleton?

A: I don't know how to describe it. Children were born one after another. The life in the country was not for me, but I held out. In the meantime my husband became ill, and a fire broke out in the house.

Q: Did a fire break out in the house?

A: Yes, it did. On top of all the hardships I had five children. All kinds of things happened; a fire broke out, and my husband had the Typhoid fever.

T: I am surprised he didn't die from it.

I: I think everybody had some hardships, but we experienced a lot.

Q: Did you find it hard to make a living?

A: We didn't find it hard to make a living, but we had a fire. We had success with celery, so we did not find it hard to make a living. I think we made money with asparagus, but I left the finance with my husband so I didn't know anything about it. When we made profit, my husband started something else. He was a hardworking man.

Q: Was Mr. Imagawa nice to you?

A: Not too nice. Not many Japanese men are nice to their wives. Looking back, I think he worked hard. That is why we could give education to children. I am very grateful.

Q: What did you do when Mr. Imakawa was ill?

A: He was hospitalized in Sacramento. I was pregnant with the third child, so it was hard to visit him once in a while. The roads were not like today, they were rough.

Q: What did you ride? Did you ride on a carriage?

A: There were already automobiles.

Q: What kind of recollections do you have on Isleton?

A: I have many bitter memories.

Q: What kind of memories do you have?

A: My husband became ill.

Q: How long was he ill?

A: He was hospitalized for about a month.

People said he might not recover, but he got well.

Q: Who took care of the ranch during that time?

A: Men who had been working for us took care of the ranch.

Q: Were they Japanese?

A: We had 2 to 3 Japanese helpers all the time. At crop time we hired many helpers.

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Q: Did you own the land or were you sharecropping?

A: We were sharecropping.

Q: What other bitter memories do you have?

A: Good and bad things happened.

Q: What were the good memories?

A: Hardly anything good happened.

Q: Didn't you have any hobbies?

A: I didn't like to go to town to see movies. My husband wanted to go, so it was hard for me to go with him.

Q: Did you go anyway?

A: Yes, I did, rather than staying home alone.

Q: What did you do with the children?

A: We took them with us. I wouldn't have gone without the children.

T: Nowadays we have baby-sitters.

I: People nowadays leave the children with baby-sitters, but we took the children with us. I think all the Isseis did that.

Q: How was the fire started?

A: I think it was started by a short circuit. Nobody was upstairs then. Before that, Hindus whom we hired to cut asparagus were staying upstairs, but they were gone for a week. It was dry so it was easy to burn. The mattresses had hay in them. The big house was burnt down to the ground.

Q: Did you buy that house?

A: No, it was there. It belonged to the landlord. We had a hard time as my husband became ill often.

Q: What kind of illness did he have?

A: He had nervous breakdown. I think he worked too hard.

Q: Did you know the Washizus in Isleton?

A: I came to know them in the camp.

Q: Weren't there many Japanese in Isleton?

A: Mr. Hashimoto had a store in town. When our house was burnt down, people were kind to us. I remember that.

Q: What did they do when you were burnt out?

A: We lost everything by the fire, so people brought us clothes, rice, futon (beddings) and all kinds of necessities.

Q: How many children did you have then?

A: We had 5 children, and they were little. Last year when Isleton was flooded I donated some money to repay the kindness I received even though those people were not living there any more.

Q: Where did you go after living in Isleton for ten years?

A: We went to ~~Brannen~~[?] Island for a year and grew celery. After that we went to Sacramento.

Q: What did you do in Sacramento?

A: We ran a hotel.

Q: What was the name of the hotel?

A: I don't know. It was an apartment on K Street.

Q: About how many units did it have?

A: There were only about 20 units. I became a Christian there.

I think if I had not gone there I didn't have a chance to be baptised. I was there only for about 3 years.

Q: About what year did you leave there?

A: I think it was in 1922 or 1924, the year Tadashi was born or a year later.

Q: Did you go to Sacramento after a year at Bowman?

A: I think he was born at Isleton. After the house was burnt down by the fire, we rebuilt the house. Then we quit there and went to Bowman and grew celery for a year. Since the Land Act came into effect and became hard to farm we went to Sacramento.

Q: Did the hotel business go well?

A: No, it didn't.

Q: Why it didn't?

A: As we had no experience we did not manage it well. After about 3 years we gave it back to the boss and left.

Q: Who was the boss?

A: The landlord. We bought the rooming house, but I guess we bought just the inside, so we had to give it back to the landlord. It was not a clean business, and we were not suited for it. After that I wrote a testimony of my faith in a book.

Q: What did you write about?

A: How I became a Christian.

Q: Do you have the book? May I borrow it?

A: Yes, you may.

Scene 2

Q: What is your oldest son doing?

A: He is a doctor.

Q: What kind of a doctor is he?

A: He is a baby doctor.

Q: What is your second son doing?

A: He is an engineer.

Q: The third one?

A: He is a professor of U.C.L.A.

Q: The fourth one?

A: He is the youngest.

Q: Do you have a daughter?

A: She is in Hawaii.

T: I admire you for sending your sons to medical schools and universities

I: By God's guidance. We couldn't have done it by ourselves.

Q: What medical school did your son attend?

A: In New York.

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Q: Did he go there while you were in the camp?

A: No, he was in the service while we were in the camp.

Q: Didn't you go to a hostel?

A: No, I didn't, because we didn't come back here.

Q: Where did you go?

A: I went to Minnesota where children were. That year Tadashi went to school.

Q: Which son is Tadashi?

A: He is the youngest. Then he transferred to the University of Minnesota and received his Ph.D.

Q: What Ph.D. was it?

A: I think it was bacteriology.

Q: Is he teaching now?

A: He is teaching everyday recently.

T: I admire you for sending your children to schools.

I: We didn't have wealth, so they should have education.

T: It is hard to send children to schools if you don't have money.

Q: When did your husband die?

A: About ten years ago.

Q: Did he die in Sacramento?

A: No, here.

Q: Didn't you go back to Sacramento?

A: No, we didn't.

Q: What do you remember about the time you were managing a hotel?

A: Was your husband running the business alone?

A: No, I did the cleaning, but that kind of work did not suit me.

I think my husband thought of going to town as the work in the country did not go well because of the Land Act. We went to town and went into a hotel business. When we came to town we found out that it was not a place to live with 5 small children. I was worried about children's education. I thought I should send my children to a Sunday school, so I called Mrs. Takeda and asked her if there was any Sunday school. She told me that there was a church and Sunday school across from her house, so send my children there. I didn't know then that it was a Christian church. When I was in the country Rev. Imai visited us once in a while, and gave us pamphlets, but in those days I was not interested in Christianity, I just remembered about Sunday School.

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Since then I started sending our children to a Sunday school. It was when Rev. Ashina was new to the church. Sometimes he stopped by to see me as our children attended the Sunday school. Tadashi started going to the Sunday school when he was a toddler. He told me that if there was a fire, Jesus would pick him up and take him to Heaven so he was not afraid. I was moved by his faith in God.

As our children started going to Sunday school I thought I would go to church and study about Christianity. That was the beginning. The pastor talked to Imagawa who believed in God obediently. When the pastor asked me what I was going to do as my husband was going to be baptized, I said, "If my husband is going to be baptized, I want to be baptized, too." I was baptized without knowing much about Christianity. It is my nature to become a devout Christian once I was baptized. I am grateful that I never thought about not going to church when the weather was bad. I could worship God obediently. I think it is not by my will, but by God's guidance.

Q: Did you know Mr. Iijima there?

A: He used to come to our house. I hear people say that not everyone in church is good. I used to say, "That is why I can go to church. If everyone is good I cannot join them."

Q: Did you sell the hotel after about 3 years?

A: Yes, we did. It was in a good location on K Street, but as it did not have hot running water it was no good. At first we had good business, but when other hotel were built with hot running water our business went down. The longer we stayed more money we would lose, so we quit the business. Then my husband decided to grow flowers... He did not make any preparation, but he had a piece of land.

Q: Where was the land?

A: It was near the Asou's. We grew flowers there, and I took them to the market to sell them. At first Akira used to go to the market with his father, but I thought he should not learn such thing when he was young, so I decided to go. At first I felt embarrassed to go to the market.

Q: Where was the market?

A: There was a market by the Southland Park. It is not there, isn't it? Where is it now?

T: It is near Rancho Cordova.

I: We continued it until the war broke out.

Q: Was the flower business good?

A: It was not good in the beginning, but it got better, and by the end it was good. Masashi could walk to college. In those days the tuition was only about \$40.

Q: About how many years were you in flower business?

A: We used to take flowers to the market, but later we opened a florist on 9th or 10th Street, and we grew flowers at Oak Park. The business was pretty good, but the war broke out.

Q: What were you doing during the Depression?

A: I think we were in Sacramento.

Q: Didn't you have hard times then?

A: I don't remember.

Q: How did you find out about the evacuation?

A: It was announced.

Q: What did you do with your household goods?

A: We packed them and put them in the attick and nailed them from outside. We could store children's things and books in storage. They took good care of them.

Q: Who did?

A: The government did.

Q: Were the household goods you put in the attick still there?

A: No, they were gone. I heard that someone took them in a big truck.

Q: Which assembly center did you go to?

A: It was Walerga.

Q: How did you feel when you entered there?

A: I cannot describe my feeling. I just did what we were told to do.

Q: What kind of a room were you given at Walerga?

A: Rooms were the same. I hated the toilet most.

Q: Where did you go from Walerga?

A: We went to Tule Lake.

Q: How was Tule Lake?

A: It was quieter than Walerga.

Q: How was the atmosphere there? Didn't people split in two groups and argue?

A: There wasn't such thing in the beginning. People say all kinds of things about the camp, but we had nothing to do with them. I don't think it was that bad. We could learn flower arrangement and all kinds of things, so it was like having a good time.

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Q: Wasn't there a problem about loyalty?

A: Yes, there was. Since then there were troubles. At that time I was in a bad spot because of my son Akira who took loyalty problem seriously. For a Nisei it was a big problem. Everybody's opinion was that since we were put in such a place we did not have to serve America, so they were against going into service. As a Nisei, my son thought he was an American citizen even though he was put in such a place, so he wanted to sign "Yes" "Yes". He told me everyday for about a week that he wanted me to understand that. I thought he is an American citizen even if he is my son, so he should say "Yes", "Yes". Before that, I think Japanese wanted him to go to Japan as he was an engineer and a graduate from the University of California, but he said that he would not do anything secretly that he might not be able to come back to America.

A block meeting was held to discuss whether to sign "Yes" or "No". As Akira had asked me, I had my mind made up to say "Yes". Everybody else was going to sign "No". I stood up and said, "I am not going to sign "No". My son says he is an American citizen, so he is going to sign "Yes" "Yes", so I cannot sign "No" with you." Everybody started getting noisy, so the chairman said he would adjourn the meeting. Later he came to me and apologized. That is why we were called "spies" and were hated.

Q: How long did you stay at Tule Lake?

A: I guess it was about a year.

Q: Where did you go from there?

A: Arkansas.

Q: Did you go to Jerome, Arkansas?

A: Yes.

Q: Was Rev. Nakamura there with you?

A: Yes, he was.

Q: Were the Itanos with you also?

A: Itano-san and Aoki-san were with us.

Q: How did you go there together?

A: We put in request together as a group. We could go anywhere we wanted to go. If we wanted to go to Colorado, we could go there.

Q: Did the whole group had to go to Jerome?

A: I guess we didn't have to.

Q: How did you go to Jerome, by a train?

A: By a train from Tule Lake.

Q: Did the white people stare at you?

A: No, because the train did not go through the big cities, but through remote areas, so we were hardly seen by anybody. We were taken to different places.

Q: Was it a special train for taking you to the camp?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: How was the life in Jerome?

A: We were put in rooms vacated by people who were sent to Tule Lake as a disloyal group.

Q: How long did you stay in Jerome?

A: I think we were there about a year.

Q: Where did you go from there?

A: We went to Colorado.

Q: Was it a camp in Colorado?

A: Yes.

Q: Were the Itanos and Rev. Nakamura with you?

A: Yes, they were. When we were in Jerome people in Rohwer wanted Rev. Nakamura to go there, but we held out and didn't let him go there.

Q: Which church were they from?

A: I don't know. I think Rev. Hata was there. We couldn't figure out why there wanted Rev. Nakamura there, so we held out and didn't let him go there.

Q: Was Jerome more peaceful?

A: Yes, it was, and the food was good there.

Q: Was it better than Tule Lake?

A: The food was not too good at Tule Lake, but at Jerome we had sashimi (raw fish) and oysters about once a month. There were eggplants, so they made delicious pickles with them. When I first went there and saw the eggplant pickles I was very happy. I thought they serve good food there. We never had such food in the camp before.

Q: Were you worried about the education of your children?

A: We did not have any children with us then. The youngest, Tadashi was in a college in Minnesota, so we did not have any worries.

Q: Did you have any trouble in Jerome?

A: No, there wasn't. We had good food. People from around Los Angeles were there before us and had taken care of everything, so we had no worries. We just stayed there.

Q: What were your hobbies? Did you learn flower making?

A: I didn't learn anything except learning English a little.

I helped the church by delivering weekly reports as I was not working. After we went to Jerome, my friend and I went to the office to get jobs. We were told that there were no jobs then except for chopping woods. When I said, "I cannot chop woods", the man said, "You can just stand there."

Q: Did you get that job?

A: No, I didn't. In the meantime I was asked if I could take care of babies, so I did that kind of work for a while.

Q: What kind of work was it?

A: I gave milk and cookies to children.

Q: Was it like a nursery

A: No, the food was at the mess hall.

Q: Did you go there and feed the children?

A: Yes. I was allowed to go into the storage room and get the food I needed, but I never touched anything else. I was praised for that. I must have had a good report, for, when I went to Colorado they wanted me to work in a hospital. I said I could not work because I did not speak English well. I did not work in Colorado.

Q: How long did you stay in Colorado? Were you there for about 6 months?

A: I forgot.

Q: How did you go to Colorado?

A: We asked to go there.

Q: Was Jerome closed?

A: Yes, it was. That is why we went to Colorado.

Q: Did your fiends go there, too?

A: Yes, they did. We were going to stay there will the end, but we were told to leave, so we went to Minesota where our daughter was.

Q: Do you remember when you left Colorado? Was it before the war ended?

A: No, after the war ended. We were in Colorado when the war ended.

Q: How did you feel when the war ended?

A: I felt bad.

Q: How did other people feel?

A: I think they were disappointed, although they knew Japan was going to lose the war. Some poeple said Japan won the war, so I thought so, too. When I went to Miesota and said, "Is Japan winning the war?" everybody laughed. I didn't want to think Japan lost the war until I heard the Emperor's speech.

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Q: Did they let you hear the Emperor's speech?

A: I think I heard it outside.

Q: How was Amache?

A: It was good. I lived in the recreation building. Rev. Nakamura was there, also. People from Cortez were there. They wanted Rev. Nakamura.

Q: Did you work in Minesota?

A: No, I didn't. My husband worked at the Y.M.C.A. of the university.

Q: What did he do?

A: He worked as a janitor. People thought highly of him as he did anything.

Q: Looking back, when was the hardest period?

A: When we were in Sacramento.

Q: Was it when you were managing a hotel?

A: After we quit the hotel business.

Q: Your children were little, weren't they?

A: Yes, they were. They were going to Sunday school. We had hard times in those days.

Q: When was the most pleasant time?

A: There wasn't anything pleasant.

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Q: Were there only hard times?

A: Not all hard times. I think this is life. When we went to Virginia one year, I think we had a good time. Akira installed neuclear energy in a ship at New Port. ~~At~~ that time we went to live there as he had built a house there, but as my husband's health was getting bad we came back here. He died a month after we came back.

Q: What did he die of?

A: He had a bad heart. He had a heart attack at Long Beach about 5 years before that. He recovered from it, and enjoyed his life working for the church. I am glad he did.

Q: Did he die of heart attack?

A: Yes.

Q: Are you retired since then? Did you work after you came home?

A: No, I didn't. I should have worked, but I took it easy. I had much hardships in the beginning.

Q: You didn't work outside but worked in the house, didn't you?

A: No, I didn't work outside. I worked in the house.

Q: Did Mr. Imagawa tell you not to work outside, or you didn't want to work outside?

A: When we were in the country I had to cook for many people. When we didn't have helpers I went out and worked. It is hard to work outside with 5 children. We had enough work at home. Most farmers in the country had hired helpers.

Q: As an Issei do you want to teach anything to Sanseis?

A: I have much, but I cannot tell them because of the language.

Q: What kind of thing do you want to teach them?

A: There are some important things I want to tell them, but I cannot tell them because they don't understand me.

Q: What kind of important things are they?

A: I cannot remember.

Q: Do you think it is important to experience hardships?

A: I think it is. Tadashi once said that it is good that we suffer hardships by depression. It is important for the education of children. If everything goes well children will be spoilt. I think that is true.

Q: How many grandchildren do you have?

A: I have 7.

Q: Your children are doing well, so you are financially well off, aren't you?

A: I think we are financially well off. We do not have many children, only two, so I think we are managing.

Q: Are you glad you came to America, or do you wish you stayed in Japan?

A: I am glad I came to America.

Q: Why?

A: The first thing is because I became a Christian. If I had stayed in Japan I would not have become a Christian. I heard that there was a Christian among my relations. My mother hated that person. When I went back to Japan I wanted to see that person, but I found out he had passed away. You have to become a Christian to find out what is good to be a Christian. You cannot tell just by looking from outside.

VI

Interview--Mrs. Katsuyo Imagawa

I came to this country in 1913. My family of 7 members was baptized on Christmas day, 1927. I lost out on life because I was too honest. I was born to the Nichiren sect, yet I did not know too much about the religion. But out of stubbornness and a staunch spirit I believed in Jesus. In Japan, christianity was considered a religion of the foreign people. I believed it myself. In 1921, I was married. It was a shashin keikoan. (This means they exchanged pictures of each other, sized up the man and woman, and married.) I had been doing farming for about 10 years near Sacramento, in Isleton. At that time we had 3 boys and 5 girls. Those were hard days. Ten years were certainly able to change my personality in terms of the difficulties and deprivations that I went through; I felt it to my bones. I was certainly able to experience the hardship of life. From one point of view, those 10 years were very difficult years; at the same time, from the other side, this could be the most wonderful years of my life. As we look back to the past, one of the things I can never forget happened in 1922. That year my husband became sick and as he was recovering from his sickness, our house burned down to the ground and we didn't have anything...seven children. Only a few days ago, I talked about this experience with my second son, and told me he didn't know how we were able to go through all this trouble. The third son was only two years younger than our second son, and every two years we had five children. Because of the sympathy of the neighbors and friends, we were able to be fed and clothed. I am deeply grateful for their love and concern. In the year 1924, I moved to Sacramento. There, my children went to school and Parkview Presbyterian Church. In 1927, the late Takeo Ashina, the minister, baptized us seven people. My baptism, was, with

the grace of god, a new light. I started a new life and we deeply rejoiced.

We continued with the education of our children and they wanted to have a life which was pure and wholesome. That was my wish and desire all through these years. In 1928 and 1929, the business in our hotel was very bad, so we turned over the management of our hotel and moved to Oak Park, where we had some land, and there we were able to start a florist business. Near the capitol, it was a difficult time for a few years. My husband worked very hard and somehow, we were able to get the things we needed. And we were also able to educate our children. Reverend Ashina and his wife were very understanding and sympathetic people and they help us all the way. Things were tight but we got wonderful help and guidance from this minister couple. I will never forget it. Oak Park was only 6 or 7 miles from Sacramento, but church was kind of far away for us. But we had the idea of going to church once a week on Sundays, therefore we went to the church every Sunday for 10 years, and we attended Sunday School and service. This was my comfort and strength all through these years. Because of the nature of my husband's work, he was not able to go to church regularly. And he was very understanding toward our children. I always prayed in dependence of god that I would be able to raise our children and let them live properly. One time I read a book written by Kunishiro Obara. In this book he said, you must train yourself to keep up with your children and so being able to talk to your children. Not everyone can talk to their children. This is what we tried to do; to give my own life to be able to communicate with my children and keep up with my children's growth. To a mother, the education of her children is one of the most important things. Sending our children to the university was not always easy. Not only to educate our children, but at the same time we had to keep peace with our children. I don't know how important

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it is, but I feel that the most important thing among Japanese Americans is that we go through many hardships because we do not know how to communicate with our children.

When my second son volunteered to go into the army, it was the most trying experience of my life. When young men with a great beginning in life look forward to life, at that time it is the duty of the mother not to crush their visions and hopes of life. This was my feeling when my son volunteered. When we face these kinds of difficult problems in life we like to shelter our son but sometimes we must let them go, because of their own happiness and visions in life. It is quite a predicament a mother faces, one of the greatest trials of life. When we face this kind of trial, then all our other difficulties are not difficulties that we cannot bear. When these young men represent us overcoming race prejudice and fighting for the common cause, I felt that Jesus Christ sent his 12 disciples to the world. In Matthew 10:16, it says, Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves, we do not know when the prosecution will come.

At that time, we shall follow the light of the world, and we should always be praying and be guided by the Lord in our prayers. The loving God responded to my prayer and he gave me the grace which is beyond my own praise. I have lived to this day and I am deeply grateful for his grace toward me. In conclusion, my true feelings is I did my work by being obedient to the will of the Lord. And this is my desire.